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S/N 10/043,827

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

SWART ET AL.

Examiner:

D. BECKER

Serial No.:

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23552

Title:

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUCING MICROBIAL BURDEN ON

A FOOD PRODUCT

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d):

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 28,

2005

Name: Sheryl A. Boerboom

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 31, 2004, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Amendment and consideration of the remarks below. Applicants submit this in timely response to the Office Action of August 31, 2004.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.